International Ltd. and Central Public Works Department (CPWD). So far 246 road works for a length of 2238.64 km. valued at Rs.689.08 crores have been approved by the Ministry of Rural Development. 130 road works for a length of 1208.77 kms. are in progress by these agencies and the details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Funds allocated to Bihar under PMGSY and the progress of work executed

PMGSY by Nominated Executing Agencies in respect of Bihar as on 30.11.2005

(*Progress of Works from Phase III onwards)

Agency	Total Allocation (in lakhs)	Cost of Works approved (in lakhs)	Approved Number	Road Length (in km)	In progress Number	Length (in km)
CPWD	143.54	3858.88	7	125.44	4	39.76
IRCON	203.48	25127.08	75	715.93	35	351.94
NBCC	266.25	16232.03	75	639.17	39	392.59
NHPC	186.25	14040.55	45	357.91	28	238.97
NPCC	164.49	9649.01	44	400.19	24	185.51
TOTAL	964.01	68907.55	246	2238.64	130	1208.77

Improvement in rural Infrastructure and roads

†1617. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans formulated by Government for extensive improvement in the rural infrastructures alongwith roads in the villages of the country;

(b) whether in implementation of these plans priority will be given to those States which are lagging behind;

(c) if so, the names of such States which will be given priority; and

(d) whether among these States also more priority will be given to such areas which are quite backward?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Formulation of a Plan under the name, Bharat Nirman, for extensive improvement in rural infrastructure along with roads in the villages of the country was announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech for 2005-06. The critical areas of rural infrastructure indentified for special focus and their details are as follows:—

Irrigation	To create one crore ha. additional irrigation.
Rural Drinking Water	To provide potable drinking to 55067 uncovered habitations (as per revised assessment), slipped back habitations, quality affected habitations and rural schools.
Rural Roads	To connect all villages that have a population of 1000 (or 500 in hilly tribal'areas) with road.
Rural Housing	To construct 60 lakh additional houses for the poor.
Rural Electrification	To electrify remaining 1,25,000 villages and offer electricity connection to 2.3 cr. households.
Rural Telephone Connectivity	• To give telephone connectivity to remaining 66822 villages.

Bharat Nirman is a four year programme which is scheduled to be completed by 2008-09. However, while the Rural Road Programme would need one more year, the programme of Rural Electrification would extend till the end of the Eleventh Plan. The Rural Telephone Connectivity is proposed to be completed in 3 years. The total investment for the programme is estimated to be Rs.1,76,000 crores (revised). The objective of Bharat Nirman is to focus on the areas of different States, which are lagging behind in development of crucial rural infrastructure in terms of above components.